

Message Text

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67

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

DOT-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 SS-15 NSC-05 L-03 H-02

PA-02 PRS-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 SIL-01

LAB-04 /065 W

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O 201918Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9875

UNCLAS OTTAWA 2036

POUCHED AS INFO TO ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, CA

SUBJ: CIVAIR: AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SITUATION

REF: OTTAWA 2002

1. PRESS REPORTS INDICATE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS NATIONAL STRIKE NOW SCHEDULED FOR 11:59 P.M. EDT MAY 31, BUT THAT CATCA HAS LEFT WAY OPEN FOR FURTHER TALKS WITH GOC TO SETTLE OUTSTANDING ISSUES. UNION ANNOUNCED BALLOT SHOWED APPROXIMATELY THREE-QUARTERS OF MEMBERS VOTING (1950 OUT OF 2200) FAVORED STRIKE, BUT WITHIN QUEBEC (316 VOTING) A SIMILAR PERCENTAGE OPPOSED STRIKE. QUEBEC REGIONAL DIRECTOR PATENAUDE QUOTED AS SAYING RESULT OF VOTE IS SUFFICIENT FOR HIS UNIT TO BREAK AWAY FROM NATIONAL BODY, BUT FINAL DECISION TO THIS EFFECT NOT YET TAKEN.

2. GOC APPEARS WILLING TO UNDERTAKE NEW TALKS WITH UNION ABOUT CONTRACT DISPUTE, BUT STATEMENTS SUGGEST LIMITED ROOM TO MANEUVER. TREASURY BOARD PRESIDENT CHRETIEN EMPHASIZED ANTI-INFLATION GUIDELINES AS
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RESTRICTING HIM ON ECONOMIC ISSUES. TRANSPORT MINISTER

LANG HAS REAFFIRMED WILLINGNESS TO BROADEN TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR PUBLIC INQUIRY ON BILINGUALISM ISSUE, BUT STRESSED AGAIN THAT GOC NOT WILLING TO BACK DOWN FROM POLICY OF EXTENDING FRENCH INTO QUEBEC ATC OPERATIONS AS SAFETY PERMITS.

3. A MAY 19 RADIO NEWS REPORT SUGGESTED THAT CANADIAN AIRLINES--IN EVENT OF STRIKE--ARE PLANNING TO OPERATE FROM U.S. POINTS TO WHICH THEY WOULD BUS THEIR PASSENGERS. PRESUMABLY, THIS WOULD APPLY ONLY TO INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS TO THIRD COUNTRIES, BUT THIS WAS NOT SPECIFIED. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED OF ANY REQUESTS FOR CAB AUTHORIZATIONS AND ACTIONS TAKEN. LAST YEAR ATC CHAIRMAN INFORMALLY INDICATED TO TCO HIS CONCERN THAT CAB AUTHORIZATIONS FOR U.S. OPERATIONS UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES MAY BE MORE DIFFICULT TO OBTAIN TODAY THAN IN THE PAST. IS THIS CORRECT?
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